

TAKES QUICK ACTION ON CLAIM MADE IN ST. LOUIS ADDRESS

President Also Writes Candidate, Asking If He Is Correctly Quoted.

**SAYS SPEECH GIVES RISE TO
'EXTRAORDINARY INFERENCE'**

Republican Candidate Replies
Disclaiming Any Impropriety
by French Government.

REPEATS HIS STATEMENT

Approached Him as to New
Association of Nations.

[By Associated Press.]
WASHINGTON, Oct. 18.—President Wilson took steps today to ascertain whether the British government

given authority to "a representative of France" to approach Senator Harding "informally" with the request that the Republican presidential nominee take the lead in the formation of an association of nations.

addressed to Senator Harding by President Wilson inquiring as to the correctness of a statement attributed to the Senator in a dispatch dated St. Louis, October 16, in which the candidate was quoted as having said he had been so approached.

"I need not point out to you," the President wrote, "the grave and extraordinary inferences to be drawn from such a statement, namely, that the government of France, which is a member of the league of nations, approached a private citizen of a nation which is not a member of the

Neither officials at the White House nor at the State Department would comment on the nature of the inquiry directed to the French government. It was understood, however,

that the note was transmitted by the State Department to the French government through Ambassador Wadsworth in Paris. At the French embassy it was stated that no such communication had been received there for transmission.

Secretary Rumlum said that no reply had been received by the White House from the French government up to a late hour.

Text of President's Letter.

The President's inquiry was contained in a letter given out today at the White House. The letter follows:

"My Dear Sir: In the New York

Times of yesterday, Sunday, October 17, 1920, I find a dispatch dated St. Louis, October 16, which purports to report recent public utterances of yours. In it occurs the following:

"Replying to criticism of his proposal for an association of nations he said in rear platform speech

Green Castle, Ind., that he already had been approached informally by a representative of France, who asked that the United States lead the way to a world fraternity."

not point out to you the grave and extraordinary inferences to be drawn from such a statement, namely, that the government of France, which is a member of the League of Nations, approached private citizens of a nation which is not a member of the league with a request that the United States lead the way.

states lead the way to a world fraternity.' The Department of State has always found the government of France most honorably mindful of its international obligations and punctiliously careful to observe all the proprieties of international intercourse.

(Signed) "WOODROW WILSON."

Senator Harding Replies.
MARION, OHIO, Oct. 18.—(Postals)

to an inquiry from President Wilson. Senator Harding wrote the White House tonight that although France had sent her "spokesmen" to him in formally asking America to lead the way for an association of nations, the incident had not involved the French government in any violation

The Senator declared that in his reference to the subject in a speech at Greencastle, Ind., recently, he only had sought to convey the thought that there had come to him "those" who spoke a sentiment, which the represented to be very manifest.

ATTENTION—Only 5 days left to take advantage of the season ticket plan. 7 artist concerts, \$7. Box office sale for **Emmy Destinn** concert opens Oct. 25. 313 E. Broad St. Southern Musical Bureau.—Adv.